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(and who shall doubt his fitness for that category?) is the first that we have met so far to write a peace drama. We are brought to the conclusion that the red blood of Mr. London is not the same fluid as that which seethes in the veins of the "universal service" jingo. The most regrettable feature of the book is that the author has chosen to leave the field of his best literary efforts and to attempt here the unfamiliar. "The Acorn-Planters" is a fine presentment of the old truth that "they that take the sword shall perish with the sword," but it is far from excellent verse. The author's choice of this alien medium of expression denotes a spirit of reverence for his subject, and as such it is commendable; but the result lacks much of the Londonesque force that one would expect to find. Why the subject of peace must be presented "classically," ponderously, or stodgily, only those can explain who so attempt it.

The Diplomatic Background of the War. By *Charles Seymour, Ph.D.* Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn. 1916. 311 p., with bibliography and index. \$2.00.

There is joy in reading the words of a man who is not afraid of fundamentals, nor too indolent to seek them out. To this pleasure Professor Seymour treats his reader with delightful frequency. On picking up any of the many resumé of events leading up to the European War, one instinctively first flutters the pages to discover whom the particular author is holding up to blame. In this case it is Germany, but before the reader has, in weariness, turned the book aside, he is attracted by this statement: "Not that German policy was more aggressive or more nationally selfish than that of other States; but that simply by her entrance (in 1871) into the circle of great nations and by her extraordinary growth, new elements were introduced into the diplomatic situation, which were destined to result inevitably in conflict." Not "Deutschtum," nor Junkerism, then, but Germany's actual existence in crowded Europe, is claimed as the true cause. The succeeding pages do not fall below the measure of expectancy such a statement arouses. Of especial interest are the several chapters devoted to the Balkan cauldron, in which many of the poisons of this war were brewing years ago. The sketch of the career of Venizelos, the hero of the hour in Greece, is of particular interest just at this moment. Most valuable, however, is the author's conclusion that war is not made by leaders, by artificially bred hatreds, by petty misunderstandings and secret chicanery, but is in the long run the result of more gigantic forces the action of which may be studied and their course predicted. This is a lesson that all must learn, who hope to secure peace for the human family.

England and Germany, 1740-1914. By *Bernadotte Everly Schmitt, M.A., Ph.D.* Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J. 1916. 524 p., with appendix, index, and maps. \$2.00.

Here is expended a wealth of industry, of devoted particularity, and studied impartiality, and to those who have sought an exhaustive explanation of the growth of hostility between Germany and England, once best of friends, this book should prove a most welcome compendium. Mr. Schmitt himself regards this work as both a labor of love for his adopted country and as the liquidation of an obligation. Making the acquaintance of England as a Rhodes scholar, he has amply fulfilled the purpose of the great engineer who founded these scholarships in the unbiased understanding of both countries thus gained, which has served to inspire the writing of the present volume. Were it not for the feeling that the private quarrel of England and Germany plays a relatively small part in the present world crisis, one could well award unlimited praise to the writer's endeavor.

Above the Battle. By *Romain Rolland.* The Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago. 192 p., with notes and index. 1916. \$1.00.

The American reader owes a debt to C. K. Ogden, editor of *The Cambridge Magazine*, for the difficult task of collection of these scattered essays and for his tactful and sympathetic translation of them. They represent the outspoken (and consequently heavily censored) opinions of one of the few men in Europe who, as the translator says, "has stood the test" of the tempest of war. With a few of them we are already familiar, such as the letter to Gerhart Hauptmann on the destruction of Louvain. Others, such as "Inter Armas Cari-

tas" and "The Idols," need to be even more widely read in this country. Nor is his "Appeal to the Intellectuals of All Nations" inappropriate for our reading, for we, too, have had our experiences with intellectuals whose intellects have been stricken with the war-fever. The title essay is a strong plea for Christian brotherhood among men, which will perhaps be given the hearing it deserves when the din of fighting is past. "For the finer spirits of Europe," cries Rolland, unheard, "there are two dwelling-places: our earthly fatherland, and that other City of God. Of the one we are the guests, of the other the builders."

Les Problèmes Internationaux et la Guerre. By *Paul Otlet.* Librairie Kundig, 4, rue du Rhone, Geneva, Switzerland. 593 p. 1916. Fcs. 8.00.

An exhaustive examination into the international problems that underlie the war. M. Otlet analyzes these comprehensively as historical, geographical, social, ethnological, economic, cultural, moral, judicial, and political. The last third of this book is devoted to a discussion of the conditions and possibilities of a Society of Nations. The essence of these chapters may be found on another page, in the "Otlet Charter," as translated by Denys P. Myers.

The Dangers of Half-Preparedness. By *Norman Angell.* G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 129 p. 1916. 50 cts.

Half-preparedness is military preparedness without a foreign policy which is clearly and distinctly understood by other nations. Mr. Angell has nothing to say against the kind of "preparedness" that is urged in this country, save that it is insufficient. "If America had a clear policy, was evidently standing for a clear international purpose, which we could see pretty plainly would give us national security, I, for one, would not mind how much military and naval power she had; and I do not believe most pacifists would mind, either." Mr. Angell, in effect, urges that we be prepared for something, a definite thing, rather than for anything—or nothing. There is much pith in this revision of his address delivered in Washington, D. C., last February. The author's mastery of emphasis by understatement is a delight to the reader, aside from the point of the discourse. Certain phrases, too, are unforgettable, as: "Everybody would lose his temper and call it patriotism;" "you will have to think as well as to get angry;" "I do not want to be irreverent, but to be plain and direct: the truth is that all of us, in our hearts, think that on this matter" (universal brotherhood) "Jesus Christ was a hopeless crank who did not know what He was talking about." The "danger" in our insufficient preparation for peace Mr. Angell takes to be that, unless we do work out a definite foreign policy and live up to it, we are headed for certain and inevitable war, no matter of what size our armament.

The Hague Court Reports. Published by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of International Law. Oxford University Press. I-CXI, 664 p. 1916.

This invaluable work, edited with an introduction by James Brown Scott, comprises the Awards, accompanied by Syllabi, the Agreements for Arbitration, and other documents in each case submitted to the Permanent Court of Arbitration and to commissions of inquiry under the provisions of the Conventions of 1899 and 1907 for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. One wishing for accurate information respecting the sixteen cases which have come before the tribunals of the Permanent Court will need this book. The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes are run in their original texts in parallel columns; the same is also true of the official translations. Reproductions of a number of original maps add greatly to the value of the text.

The British Empire, A Scheme of Study. Issued as Pamphlet 6 of the "Aids to Study" series, by the Council for the Study of International Relations, 1, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W., England. 44 p. 1916. 3d.

Ralph Waldo Emerson on War. With a preface by *Henry Ford.* Copyright, 1916, by Emilie Hapgood. This is the address Mr. Emerson delivered before the American Peace Society in 1838. Copies procurable from the American News Company, 11 Park Place, New York City. 15 cents.